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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,783	08/23/2006	Takao Okajima	280072US0PCT	3980
22850	7590	05/27/2009		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER MATTISON, LORI K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1619	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/27/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/553,783	Applicant(s) OKAJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner LORI MATTISON	Art Unit 1619	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/20/2006; 11/21/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1619

DETAILED ACTION

The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed.

All correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1619.

Status of Claims

.Applicant's amendments filed 3/16/2009 to claims 1-4 have been entered. Claims 5 have been cancelled. Claims 9 and 10 have been added. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 remain pending in the current application, of which claims 1-4, 9 and 10 are being considered on their merits. Claims 6-8 remain withdrawn from consideration at this time. References not included with this Office action can be found in a prior action. Any rejections of record not particularly addressed below are withdrawn in light of the claim amendments and applicant's comments.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant requests that JP 9-205 be considered and a signed and initialed copy of the IDS be forwarded to applications because applicants submitted JP 9-205699 and an English translation of a Notice of Rejection (mailed August 22, 2006) which describes a disclosure of JP-205699 (page 10, last paragraph; page 11, first paragraph).

The examiner did not find this persuasive because the information disclosure statement filed 11/21/2006 fails to comply with the requirement that a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in

Art Unit: 1619

the English language. The concise explanation may be either separate from applicant's specification or incorporated therein M.P.E.P. § 609. Also, the submitted text is not an English language translation of the non-English Japanese application. M.P.E.P. § 609 states, "a copy of the translation if a written English-language translation of a non-English- language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in § 1.56(c)."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Instant claims 1 and 10 recite the indefinite term "wherein a/the viscosity of said cleansing agent is not greater than 3,000 mPa*s". It is not clear when the recited viscosity is required to be achieved such as at the time of application, while the composition is solidifying or after the composition has solidified. Clarification is required. Because claims 2-4 depend from indefinite claim 1 and do not clarify the point of confusion, they must also be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 3 and 9 recite the indefinite term "mainly composed of diorganopolysiloxane." The amount of diorganopolysiloxane required for the composition to be mainly composed of diorganopolysiloxane is unclear.

Art Unit: 1619

Clarification is required. Because claim 10 depends from indefinite claim 9 and does not clarify the point of confusion, it must also be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No 4,412,096 (Edgerton, 1983), as evidenced by “Questions” from Abilene Speech & Hearing Center Copyrighted 2002 accessed 10/16/2008 from <http://www.abilenehearing.com/questions.htm>, “Protocol for Earmold Impressions” as prepared by LT Andy Hayes accessed 10/16/2008 from <http://www-mcphc.med.navy.mil/occmcd/ProtocolForTakingAnEarmoldImpressionAndyHayes.doc>, and US Patent No. 4,891,400 (Schwabe, 1990)

The limitations of claim 1 are disclosed by Edgerton. Specifically, Edgerton discloses a .silicone material such as Promold or other flexible fast-setting silicones such as dental impression material or "Insta-Mold" brand silicone material (Col 4, lines 35-43). The silicone composition is mixed and applied to the ear canal (i.e. ear hole) of a patient where it cures and hardens (i.e. solidifies; Col. 4, lines 43-50). With regard to the viscosity of the cleaning

Art Unit: 1619

agent being not greater than 3,000 mPa*S, Edgerton does disclose that the applied composition is highly viscous (column 3, lines 55-65) but does not disclose the numerical range. With regard to the viscosity of the cleaning agent being not greater than 3,000 mPa*S, the composition as claimed was already known and was disclosed by Edgerton. A previously unrecognized property of a prior art composition does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. [M.P.E.P. § 2112; *Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Circ. 1999)].

The limitations of instant claim 2 are disclosed by Edgerton. Edgerton discloses that the composition comprises a two component hardening system, the composition comprises two components which forms the vulcanized silicone material comprises of part A which comprising of a dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Col. 3, lines 55 to end) as well as a trimethyl endblocked polysiloxane which contains a hydride (Col 4, lines 5-15) and part B which comprises a platinum catalyst (Col.4, lines 25-40) and the same dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Col 4, lines 20-25). With regard to the composition being a silicone rubber, Edgerton discloses that the solidified silicon material of the earmold is “flexible” and “elastic” demonstrating that it is a rubber (Col 1, lines 60-68; Col. 7, Claim 1).

Edgerton meets the limitations of instant claim 3 by disclosing that vulcanized silicone material comprises of part A (i.e. second agent) which comprises a dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Col. 3, lines 55 to end) as well as a trimethyl endblocked polysiloxane which contains

Art Unit: 1619

a hydride (Col 4, lines 5-15) and part B (i.e. first agent) comprises a platinum catalyst (Col.4, lines 25-40) and the same dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Col 4, lines 20-25) . As evidenced by Schwabe, the reactive hydride (Si-H) group of the trimethyl endblocked polysiloxane with (Col 1, lines 40-45) acts as a cross-linking agent. Edgerton discloses that the dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Col. 3, lines 55 to end) is a diorganopolysiloxane. With regard to the reactive silicone base being composed of “mainly” diorganopolysiloxane, the silicone material of Edgerton prior art comprises of 200 parts same dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Columns 3 and 4) and only 4 parts of the trimethyl endblocked polysiloxane (Col 4, lines 5-15), thus the silicone base comprises mainly of the diorganopolysiloxane.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by 5,556,914 (Colas, 1996).

Colas meets the limitations of instant claim 9 by disclosing silicone rubber compositions (column 4, lines 5-23). The composition is disclosed to comprise two components, an RTV base (component 1) which is catalyzed by a curing agent composition (component 2; column 4, lines 5-10). As demonstrated by Table 1 (column 4, lines 20-45), a composition was formed which comprised RTV base, and the curing agent having a TBOS(-OC₄H₉) as a cross-linker. TBOS is disclosed to refer to a tetra-n-butoxysilane (i.e. an alkoxysilane crosslinker comprising 4 alkoxy groups; column 3, lines 60-65). The RTV base comprises

Art Unit: 1619

an alpha, omega, dihydroxypolydimethylsiloxane (i.e. a hydroxylated diorganopolysiloxane containing at least two hydroxyl groups; column 3, lines 40-45). The composition is disclosed as able to be cast and fill grooves, and cured (i.e. solidified) to form a silicone rubber (column 4, lines 5-15). The formed rubber is disclosed to be releasable at least 40 times from the mold, after solidifying, before adhesion was observed.

With regard to the RTV-TBOS silicone rubber being able to take a form that it can be removed from the navel cavity together with dirt, the composition as claimed was already known and was disclosed by Colas. A previously unrecognized property of a prior art composition does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. [M.P.E.P. § 2112; *Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Circ. 1999)].

With regard to the composition having a viscosity of not greater than 3,000 mPa*s as recited by instant claim 10, the composition as claimed was already known and was disclosed by Colas. A previously unrecognized property of a prior art composition does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. [M.P.E.P. § 2112; *Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Circ. 1999)].

Remarks

Applicant's arguments regarding the art rejections of record have been considered to the extent they read on the amended claims.

Art Unit: 1619

Applicant alleges that prior art does not describe or suggest removing dirt from ears (Reply, page 7, paragraph 4) or from the navel cavity (Reply, page 7, paragraph 7).

The examiner disagrees. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Applicant alleges that the examiner has not provided a publication date of "Protocol for Earmold Impression" and therefore it can not be used as evidence in the rejection (Reply, page 7, paragraph 6).

The examiner disagrees. "Protocol for Earmold Impression" is provided as an evidentiary reference. M.P.E.P. § 2123 states, "In some circumstances a factual reference need not antedate the filing date." "In certain circumstances, references cited to show a universal fact need not be available as prior art before applicant's filing date. *In re Wilson*, 311 F.2d 266, 135 USPQ 442 (CCPA 1962). Such facts include the characteristics and properties of a material or a scientific truism."

Applicant alleges that, " the claimed viscosity of the navel cleansing agent is relatively low compared to that of, for example, commonly used dental/ear molding agents." "The viscosity of an earmold composition is not necessarily the same as the viscosity of a cleansing composition for navel cavity." "The cited

Art Unit: 1619

references do not describe or suggest selecting the claimed viscosity.” (Reply, page 7, paragraphs 8-9)

The examiner disagrees. M.P.E.P. § 716.01(b) states, “Attorney arguments can not take the place of evidence.” Further, the composition as claimed is known (i.e. a composition which solidifies after a period of time) .M.P.E.P. § 2112 states “A previously unrecognized property of a prior art composition does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. [*Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Circ. 1999)]. Additionally, in response to applicant's arguments, the recitation “navel cavity cleansing agent” has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Applicant alleges, that the cited references do not describe a navel cleansing agent comprising a reactive silicone base and a crosslinking agent in the specific combination, i.e., a hydroxylated diorganopolysiloxane containing at least two hydroxyl groups in the molecule and an alkoxysilane containing at least two alkoxygroups in the molecule (as in claims 9 and 10; Reply page 8, paragraph 1).

Art Unit: 1619

The examiner disagrees. As discussed above, the recitation “navel cavity cleansing agent” has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. The composition disclosed by Colas comprises the reactive silicone base (i.e. alpha, omega, dihydroxypolydimethylsiloxane;. a hydroxylated diorganopolysiloxane containing at least two hydroxyl groups; column 3, lines 40-45) and the crosslinking agent, tetra-n-butoxysilane (i.e. an alkoxysilane crosslinker comprising 4 alkoxy groups; column 3, lines 60-65). Thus the specific combination is anticipated by Colas.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-4 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No 4,412,096 (Edgerton, 1983), U.S Patent No. 5360858 (Fujiki,

Art Unit: 1619

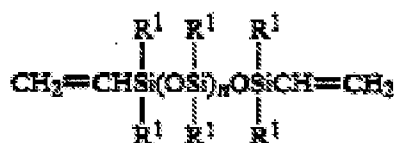
1994), US Patent No. 4714739 (Arkles, 1987) and US Patent No. 5674966

(hereinafter '966) by McDermott.

The limitations of instant claims 1-3 are addressed supra. The '096 prior art teaches a composition which comprises of a silicone material which comprises a silicone base diorganopolysiloxane with 2 vinyl groups [dimethyl vinyl-chain stopped polydimethyl siloxane copolymer (Col. 3, lines 55 to end)] and trimethyl endblocked polysiloxane which contains a hydride (Col 4, lines 5-15). The examiner notes that the trimethyl endblocked polysiloxane maximally contains 30 hydrides which would be available for cross linking (Col 4, lines 5-15).

The '096 prior art does not teach a hydrogenated diorganopolysiloxane which contains at least two Si-H groups in the molecule.

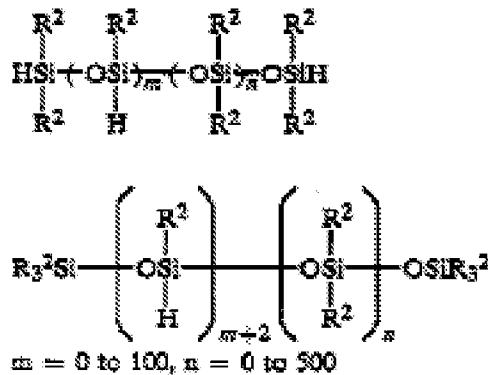
The '858 prior art teaches a silicone rubber composition. Similar to the composition of the '096 prior art, the silicone rubber composition of the '858 prior art comprises a platinum catalyst and a diorganopolysiloxane containing at least two alkylenyl groups in a molecule (Col 2, lines 20-30). Use of vinyl as the two terminal groups is explicitly taught in the examples, with the following molecule depicted (Col 2, lines 55-65):



Use of a diorganohydrogenopolysiloxane which cross-links reacts with the above component is specifically taught (Col 3, lines 10-20). It is further taught

Art Unit: 1619

that the diorganohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linker should have at least two hydrogen atoms directly attached to silicon atoms in the molecule (Col 3 lines 15-22). The '858 prior art specifically teaches the following molecules as non-limiting examples (Col. 3, lines 35-50):



The examiner notes that in the above two examples, a maximum of 100 to 102 hydrides are available for crosslinking.

The '739 prior art teaches silicone hydride polymers are not as stable as the silicone vinyl polymers. The simplest solution is to maintain hydride levels higher than stoichiometric requirements (Col. 4, lines 40-50).

The '966 prior art teaches that inhibition of diffusion through cross-linking requires that a molar excess of hydride to alkenyl will improve the physical of a given formulation relative to those formulations where the two reactants are present in strict molar equivalence (Col 12, lines 63 to end; Col 13, lines 1-7).

Therefore it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to optimize the silicone rubber composition taught by the '096 prior art through substitution of the trimethyl

Art Unit: 1619

endblocked polysiloxane cross-linker with the diorganohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linker taught by the '858 prior art. One would have been motivated to do so in order to optimize the cross-linking (i.e. curing) of the silicone material of the '096 prior art through utilization of a cross-linker with more available hydride groups. Use of the cross-linker taught by the '858 prior art would continue to provide available hydride groups to the reactive vinyl groups for cross linking as the silicon material becomes more "solid" and diffusion becomes limited. Use of the cross-linker taught by the '858 prior art would also be desirable because the excess of hydride groups on the cross linker, would still permit cross-linking with vinyl groups, although some hydride groups may have been lost to the environment through unwanted reactions with contaminants (i.e. instability). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been further motivated to use the cross-linker taught by the '858 prior art because the cross linker had been used with success in a similar system.

Remarks

Applicant's arguments regarding the art rejections of record have been considered to the extent they read on the amended claims.

Applicant alleges that the combination of references do not describe or suggest removing dirt from ears or from the nasal cavity (Reply, page 9, paragraph 3). Applicant further alleges that the one would not have been motivated with a reasonable expectation of success to use the composition of the

Art Unit: 1619

cited references for removing earwax, and dirt from the navel cavity (Reply, page 9, last paragraph)

The examiner disagrees. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Applicant alleges that the examiner cites "Protocol for Earmold Impression" to show that an earmold can remove wax/debris adhered to the mold from human ears. Applicant further alleges that the examiner has not provided a publication date of "Protocol for Earmold Impression" and therefore it can not be used as evidence in the rejection (Reply, page 9, paragraphs 5 and 6).

The examiner disagrees. "Protocol for Earmold Impression" is provided as an evidentiary reference to reinforce the truism taught by "Questions" demonstrating that silicone earmold material is very sticky. M.P.E.P. § 2123 states, "In some circumstances a factual reference need not antedate the filing date." "In certain circumstances, references cited to show a universal fact need not be available as prior art before applicant's filing date. *In re Wilson*, 311 F.2d 266, 135 USPQ 442 (CCPA 1962). Such facts include the characteristics and properties of a material or a scientific truism."

Applicant alleges that dirt from the navel cavity is different from ear wax or ear debris (Reply, page 9, paragraph 7; Reply, page 10, paragraph 1).

Art Unit: 1619

The examiner disagrees. M.P.E.P. § 716.01(b) states, “Attorney arguments can not take the place of evidence.”

Applicant alleges that, “ the claimed viscosity of the navel cleansing agent is relatively low compared to that of, for example, commonly used dental/ear molding agents.” “The viscosity of an earmold composition is not necessarily the same as the viscosity of a cleansing composition for navel cavity.” “The cited references do not describe or suggest selecting the claimed viscosity.” (Reply, page 10, paragraphs 1-3)

The examiner disagrees. M.P.E.P. § 716.01(b) states, “Attorney arguments can not take the place of evidence.” Further, the composition as claimed is known (i.e. a composition which solidifies after a period of time) .M.P.E.P. § 2112 states “A previously unrecognized property of a prior art composition does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. “[*Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Circ. 1999)].

Applicant alleges, “the cited references do not describe a combination of hydroxylated diorganopolysiloxane containing at least two hydroxyl groups and an alkoxysilane containing at least two alkoxy groups (as in claims 9-10).”

The examiner refers Applicant to the anticipatory rejections made under 35 USC§102 (b) above using the Colas reference.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Art Unit: 1619

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LORI MATTISON whose telephone number is (571)270-5866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-6pm (Monday-Thursday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571)272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1619

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 1619

/MP WOODWARD/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1615